

BA conduit, deflating the inflatable device, removing the expander device from the expandable conduit and removing the inflatable device from the expandable conduit.

19. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein the method includes at least one of the additional steps selected from the group consisting of attaching an expander device to the inflatable device, operating the expander device to expand the expandable conduit, re-attaching the expander device to the inflatable device, deflating the inflatable device, removing the expander device from the expandable conduit and removing the inflatable device from the expandable conduit.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. The dependencies of certain claims have been reduced, to conform to United States practice. Minor editorial changes to the claims have been made. Sub-headings have been added to the description. No new matter has been introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

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In re: Patent application of Peter Oosterling
National Stage of PCT/GB00/03406

MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Abstract:

The following Abstract has been added:

--Apparatus and methods are disclosed for anchoring a first conduit to a second conduit. The first conduit is typically an expandable conduit whereby at portion of the first conduit is expanded by applying a radial force thereto to provide an anchor and/or seal between the first and second conduits. An inflatable device is provided that can be used to provide a temporary anchor whilst the first (expandable) conduit is radially expanded. An expander device that is capable of applying a radial expansion force to the first conduit is optionally attached to the inflatable device.--

In the Specification:

The following has been inserted on Page 1, line 3:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is the U.S. national phase application of PCT International Application No. PCT/GB00/03406, filed September 6, 2000.

Field of the Invention--

The following has been inserted on Page 1, line 9:

--Background of the Invention--

The following has been inserted on Page 4, line 12:

--Summary of the Invention--

The following has been inserted on Page 8, line 3:

--Brief Description of the Drawings--

The following has been inserted on Page 9, line 7:

--Detailed Description of the Invention--

In the Claims:

3. (Amended) Apparatus according to claim 1 [or claim 2], wherein the first conduit comprises any type of expandable conduit that is capable of sustaining [plastic and/or elastic] deformation.

4. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the first conduit [comprises an] is selected from the group of conduits consisting of expandable liner and expandable casing [or the like].

5. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the second conduit [comprises a] is selected from the group of conduits consisting of liner, casing[, borehole or the like] and boreholes.

6. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the inflatable device comprises an inflatable [balloon-type] balloon portion coupled to a ring.

7. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the inflatable device includes an expander device.

11. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the inflatable device is located within the [expandable] first conduit.

12. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein the inflatable device is coupled [at or] near an [upper] end of the [expandable] first conduit[, or at or near a lower end of the expandable conduit].

13. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the inflatable device is inflated to expand the [expandable] first conduit whereby the [expandable] first conduit contacts the second conduit, thereby providing an anchor.

14. (Amended) Apparatus according to [claim 13] claim 1, wherein the [expandable] first conduit is provided with a slotted portion to facilitate expansion.

15. (Amended) Apparatus according to [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein, [the inflatable device is inflated whereby] on inflation of the inflatable device, a portion thereof directly contacts the second conduit to provide an anchor.

18. (Amended) A method according to [claim 16] or claim 17, wherein the method includes at least one[, some or all] of the additional steps selected from the group consisting of inserting an expander device into the expandable conduit, operating the expander device to expand the expandable conduit, deflating the inflatable device, [and] removing the expander device from the expandable conduit, [and/or] and removing the inflatable device from the expandable conduit [and/or the second conduit].

19. (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 16 to 18] claim 17, wherein the method includes at least one[, some or all] of the additional steps selected from the group consisting of attaching an expander device to the inflatable device, operating the expander device to expand the expandable conduit, re-attaching the expander device to the inflatable device, deflating the inflatable device, [and] removing the expander device [and/or] from the expandable conduit and removing the inflatable device from the expandable conduit [and/or second conduit].